

**CLAIMS:**

1. A personal care absorbent article having a longitudinal-direction, a lateral cross-direction, and an intermediate portion interposed between a pair of longitudinally opposed  
5 end portions, said article comprising  
a backsheet having a pair of laterally-opposed side edges;  
a liquid-permeable topsheet;  
an absorbent body sandwiched between said backsheet and said topsheet; and  
a separately provided wing-panel which is operatively joined to the intermediate portion of  
10 said article, and extends laterally beyond at least one lateral side edge of said  
backsheet in the intermediate portion of said article, said wing-panel configured to  
wrap about an undergarment;  
wherein  
a maximum longitudinal length of said wing-panel is less than a maximum longitudinal  
15 length of said backsheet;  
a contoured side-edge of said wing-panel provides a substantially continuous extension  
from a contoured side-edge of said backsheet.
2. An article as recited in claim 1, wherein said wing-panel is joined to a major facing-  
20 surface of said backsheet.
3. An article as recited in claim 1, wherein  
at least an operative portion of said wing-panel extends substantially continuously along  
an entire cross-directional width of a corresponding region of said backsheet; and  
25 said wing-panel extends laterally beyond the pair of laterally-opposed, terminal side edges  
of said backsheet.
4. An article as recited in claim 1, wherein  
a first wing-panel section extends laterally outward from a first laterally-terminal side edge  
30 of said backsheet;  
a second, separately provided wing-panel section extends laterally outward from a second  
laterally-terminal side edge of said backsheet;  
a contoured side-edge of each said wing-panel section provides a substantially continuous  
extension from a corresponding contoured side-edge of said backsheet.

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5. An article as recited in claim 1, wherein said backsheet and said wing-panel have been severed in a substantially continuous operation which has occurred after said wing-panel has been operatively joined to the intermediate portion of said article.
- 5 6. An article as recited in claim 1, wherein the article includes at least one composite transition section which includes a portion of the wing-panel member along with a layered portion of the article that includes a corresponding portion of the backsheet.
- 10 7. An article as recited in claim 1, wherein the article includes at least one composite transition section which includes a portion of the wing-panel member along with a layered portion of the article that includes a corresponding portion of the backsheet and topsheet.
- 15 8. An article as recited in claim 1, wherein the article includes at least one composite transition section which includes a portion of the wing-panel member along with a layered portion of the article that includes a corresponding portion of the backsheet; and the composite transition section is arcuate and concave outward.
- 20 9. An article as recited in claim 1, wherein said backsheet has an intermediate section interposed between a pair of longitudinally opposed end sections; and said wing-panel is joined to extend laterally from said intermediate section of said backsheet.
- 25 10. An article as recited in claim 1, wherein said wing-panel is joined onto an outward, garment-side surface of said backsheet.
- 30 11. An article as recited in claim 1, wherein said wing-panel is joined onto a bodyside surface of said backsheet.
12. An article as recited in claim 1, wherein said wing-panel is joined onto an outward, garment-side surface of said topsheet.
- 35 13. An article as recited in claim 1, wherein said wing-panel is joined onto bodyside surface of said topsheet.

14. An article as recited in claim 1, wherein said wing-panel includes a fabric.
15. An article as recited in claim 1, wherein said wing-panel includes a nonwoven fabric.
- 5 16. An article as recited in claim 1, wherein said wing-panel includes a point-unbonded, nonwoven fabric.
17. An article as recited in claim 1, wherein  
a maximum longitudinal length of said wing-panel is not more than about 80 % of a  
10 maximum longitudinal length of said backsheet; and  
longitudinally opposed end-edges of said wing-panel are non-coterminous with  
longitudinal end-edges of said backsheet.
18. An article as recited in claim 1, wherein an overall longitudinal length of said wing-  
15 panel is not less than a minimum of about 15 % of an overall longitudinal length of said  
backsheet.
19. An article as recited in claim 1, wherein said wing-panel extends beyond laterally-  
opposed side edges of said backsheet for a distance of at least a minimum of about 2 cm.
- 20 20. An article as recited in claim 1, wherein said wing-panel extends beyond laterally-  
opposed side edges of said backsheet for a distance of up to a maximum of about 10 cm.